



*THE*  
**EDMONTON**  
**DISTRICT**  
*OF*  
**NORTHERN ALBERTA.**

WESTERN TERRITORIES OF CANADA.

Published by the Edmonton Board of Trade.

EDMONTON  
PRINTED AT THE "BULLETIN" OFFICE.

1890

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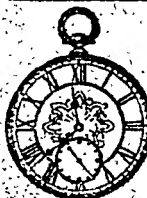
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THE  
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TO INTENDING EMIGRANTS.

The farmer who is compelled to seek a new location for himself and family, has a very serious question to face. The circumstances compelling him to remove may be of various kinds. He may be cramped on too small a piece of land, or he may not have enough capital with which to work the land he has, or he may not own his land and at the close of his lease must seek a new location, or he may be desirous of securing land for his children and unable to purchase it in the vicinity in which he lives, or he may have bought land at too high a price and be unable to complete his payments. Any of these reasons may be sufficient to make it advisable for the farmer located in the east to seek a new home; to say nothing of bad seasons or personal misfortunes or faults. Whatever may be the reasons for removal there is no doubt that the removal itself is a loss. The time that is taken in removing from one place to another, the travelling expenses, the losses and accidents before everything can be accommodated to the new surroundings and be got working to advantage make it most necessary that there should be as few removals as possible in a man's lifetime, if wealth is desired. Therefore the person intending to remove requires to weigh well the permanent advantages of the several localities of which he has choice before removing, so that the one remove will answer all purposes. He should ask: What region produces those articles which are of the highest and most permanent commercial value? In what part of the region

adapted to the production of these articles can they be produced in the greatest abundance and perfection and with the greatest average certainty? In what part of that region is the soil best suited by reason of the depth of its fertility to permanently keep up an abundant yield? Has the region otherwise suitable a healthy climate, tending to bodily and mental vigor; for wealth without health to enjoy it or successors to use it is of little account? Are there favorable opportunities for acquiring land at a low rate in that region? Are the natural conditions favorable to a settler starting on a small capital? Are the social conditions there of ordinary civilization—is life and property secure and are there educational and religious advantages available? A satisfactory answer to these questions is more important to the thinking, working, saving farmer—the man who is the producer of the wealth and is the backbone of the civilization of both Canada and the United States; who has made these countries what they are—than to the questions that are ordinarily the first ones asked: Is there a rush of immigration, is the country booming, is money plentiful, is land rising in value, is railway building going on? With a continually increasing population continually seeking new homes, and with capital continually increasing and as continually seeking investment, if the natural conditions of any section of this continent are desirable, immigration and railways will find it before long—labor and capital will overrun it; but if the natural conditions are unsuitable, although it may be artificially boomed for a time as has been the case with Dakota, nature will assert itself, and heart breaking disappointment or disastrous loss must result as they have resulted there.

where the natural conditions were so adverse that they could not be overcome. In looking over the ground for a suitable location the intending settler should be particularly careful regarding any district that is booming, and should carefully bear in mind that the fact that it is booming has no necessary relation to its suitability as a place for locating or investing capital. As there was a time when it did not boom so there is as certain to be a time when it will not boom, and when the calculations that have been made on a boom basis will as certainly break those who have made them as the boom itself will certainly break. The men who make the money in a boom are the men who located before there was a boom, or before it was thought of. The men out of whom they make their money are the men who come in after the boom is started and mistake the boom for permanent prosperity. Therefore if it is desired to locate or invest, do not go to a place where a boom is in progress but to a place where there is no boom, where the natural conditions are such as to insure a lasting prosperity as the result of industry, which is the only true source of wealth.

#### WHERE DOES FARMING PAY BEST?

In answer to the question, What region produces those articles which are of the highest and most permanent commercial value? The agricultural products which are of the highest and most permanent value are those which are most universally necessary to the existence of civilized man, for civilized man alone has the commercial facilities to give them world wide distribution and he alone has money to pay for them. These products are wheat and cattle in their manufactured state of flour and beef. It would be possible for the world to do without sugar or tea or coffee or tobacco or cotton altogether for a time, or to reduce the consumption to such a degree as to break everyone engaged in growing these products. Men engaged in raising these products may occasionally make large profits easily but they are subject to as heavy losses from low markets. It is not possible for the civilized world to do without flour or beef, nor is it possible for consumption to be as greatly reduced on account of an increase of price, as in the case of other products. A decrease of production or an increase of demand increases the price of flour and beef according to the buyer's necessity, which is not under his control to the same extent as regarding other pro-

ducts. Therefore the farmer engaged in raising wheat and beef for export has a surer market for all time than the farmer raising any other article of produce. He is not then subject to the losses from low markets or from lack of a market as those who raise sugar or coffee or tobacco or cotton are, and as a consequence the farmers who depend on raising wheat and cattle for export are on the average more prosperous and the country which depends upon their prosperity has more wealth than the farmers who depend on less staple articles or the country which depends on them. The farmer who desires a permanent prosperity as the reward of industry should locate in a wheat and cattle growing country rather than in a sugar and coffee and tobacco and cotton country. It should be remembered that the crops and products raised where wheat and cattle thrive are second only in importance to these articles themselves. These are the products of the Northern States and of Canada while the Southern States and West Indies produce sugar and coffee and tobacco. There is double as much wealth per head in Canada and the Northern States as in the West Indies and the Southern States, and it is more evenly divided.

#### WHERE ARE RETURNS MOST CERTAIN.

If wheat and cattle are the products upon which the farmer may most safely depend for continued prosperity the next question is, In what part of the region adapted to their growth can they be produced in the greatest perfection and abundance—in its southern or its northern part—in Canada or in the States? It is an established fact that all products can be brought to the greatest perfection near the northern limit of their growth. It is a well established fact that the cultivated grains and domestic animals of Eastern Canada attain a greater perfection than those of the States immediately adjoining to the south. And it is also a well established fact that although Ontario contains a very much larger proportion of inferior farming land its yield of wheat per acre is considerably greater than that of the immediately adjoining and very fertile State of New York, and greater than that of any State of the Union. Regarding the superiority of its domestic animals it need only be pointed out that Canadian cattle are admitted to the British markets without quarantine, while cattle from the United States are invariably quarantined, as being more liable to be diseased. The rule regarding the better

quality and more abundant yield of grain which applies as between Eastern Canada and the States applies equally between Western Canada and the States. Manitoba and the Northwest raise more bushels of wheat to the acre than Minnesota and Dakota and the wheat makes a better quality of flour—the best; it is worth while remembering, that the world affords. What is true regarding wheat is just as true regarding cattle. The more abundant and richer summer pasturage and the ample supply of good hay for the winter, where hay is required, have their necessary effect in making the cattle raised in the Northwest superior in size and quality to those raised on the less abundant and less nutritive grasses of the south. What is true regarding the cattle themselves is equally true regarding their products, butter and cheese, and also regarding the other products of the farm. This point of the superior quality of Northwest products is something that should be particularly kept in mind, for while the world may compete in raising wheat and cattle, no other part of the world can compete with the Northwest in the quality of these products, therefore, whatever prices may be, the Northwest will always get the best. In average certainty of wheat production the Northwest need not fear comparison with any other new country. There have been years of failures from grasshoppers and other years of partial failure from frosts, while last year there was for the first time a partial failure from drouth, but from none of these causes have failures been as frequent or as severe in the Canadian Northwest as in the prairie States south of the line. In the time of the grasshoppers the pests bred and ranged, for years over the prairie territories before coming into the Canadian Northwest. Their home is the plains and they never penetrated the partly wooded regions along the Upper Saskatchewan, in Northern Alberta. Although further north, being at a lower elevation and sheltered to some extent by the timbered country of the north, strange as it may seem it is nevertheless an established fact that the Canadian Northwest has not suffered as severely from frost in the past ten years as the prairie States to the south, and it is further an established fact that the more northerly and more wooded parts of the Territories do not suffer as severely as the higher plains further south—that there is less frost along the Saskatchewan than along the C. P. R. line. To go no further back

than 1888, frost was general and severe in Dakota and parts of Southern Manitoba, while at Edmonton there was no frosted grain and at other points on the Saskatchewan there was very little. In 1880 there was frost in the last of May and early part of June throughout Ontario, the Eastern and Western States, Manitoba and the southern part of the Northwest and, absolutely none at Edmonton. Regarding the drouth the advantage is plainly and altogether on the side of the Northwest and particularly the northern part of the Northwest. Where timber grows there is more moisture than where it does not grow, and as the Canadian Northwest is either actually timbered or is nearer timber than the prairie States it must have more moisture, and certainly has, than they. There have formerly been years of drouth in the States when the Canadian Northwest enjoyed sufficient moisture, but last year the drouth extended to the Northwest so that it was a test year. Those parts of Manitoba and the Northwest nearest the United States suffered most severely, and those most distant suffered least. At Edmonton although the season was very dry the yield of grain was 19 bushels to the acre of wheat, oats 26 bushels, barley 21 bushels, a higher average than Dakota shows in its most favored year. To sum up, in Northern Alberta which contains the most northerly settlements in the Northwest, there is practically no danger of grasshoppers, no danger of drouth, and less danger from frost than in Dakota, while the other wheat pests prevalent in more southern latitudes are unknown. Owing to the greater moisture in this part of the country there is a better growth of richer grass than elsewhere in the Territories therefore cattle can be raised more easily, cheaply and of better quality than further south.

#### WHERE IS THE SOIL MOST FERTILE?

In answer to the question, In what part of the region best adapted by climate for the raising of wheat and cattle is the soil of a depth and richness to ensure a continuance of abundant yields of grain and grass? In this particular Northern Alberta, of which Edmonton is the commercial centre, is easily ahead of any other portion of the Northwest. The surface of the country is gently undulating, and through the centre of the district the Saskatchewan river flows in a bed 200 feet below the level. On top is a layer of from one to three feet of black vegetable

mould, with little or no mixture of sand or gravel, bearing a growth of wild vegetation of a luxuriance seen in no other part of the territories, and indeed seldom seen any where outside the tropics. It is peculiar to this section of country that the black mould is deeper on the knolls and ridges than in the hollows. This is accounted for partly by the fact of the mould being the direct result of the decomposition of vegetation just where it grew, and not a deposit brought from some other locality as is the case with the deep soil of the Red River Valley; and partly by the fires which in extra dry seasons burned away the turf in the localities which on account of their being more damp, because lower, contained a greater amount of vegetable matter. The black loam of Ontario, the result of the decomposition of forests for countless ages, was very rich, but it was less than a foot in thickness. The superior fertility of the region where under parallel circumstances three feet of similar soil has been formed must be evident. With a soil of such depth and fertility it is not wonderful that in ordinary good seasons a yield of oats of 100 to 114 weighed bushels to the acre has not been uncommon, and that less than 60 bushels is considered a poor crop; that barley will yield 60 bushels and wheat over forty and that potatoes of from three to four pounds weight are not a rarity. Of course these yields have not been attained every year nor in any year by every farmer, but they have been attained without extraordinary exertions, and prove that the capacity is in the soil if the tillage is given to bring it out. Underneath the mould lies whitish marley clay of a depth of about twelve feet. This clay, unlike the subsoil of Ontario, contains the elements of fertility, and a mixture of it with the black loam adds to the productiveness of the latter in the case of wheat. Such a soil is not only exceptionally fertile to commence with, but has practically an inexhaustible fertility. Supposing the black mould to be worked out there remains the twelve feet of marley clay underneath, which is almost equally fertile and can never be worked out. This is not to say that the land is not the better of good tillage and manure as well; but it is to say that instead of there being a continued battle as in even the best parts of England or Ontario to keep up the fertility of the soil, necessitating the bringing in of manure from the outside, this land can be kept at the highest pitch of fertility forever merely

by good cultivation and returning to it the refuse of what is taken from it. The difference that the staying powers of the fertility of the soil makes to the farmer cannot be over estimated. It is the difference between wealth and poverty, between a gold mine and one of iron pyrites, between a profitable and an unprofitable occupation. The farmer who settles on a farm and in a region where the soil lacks depth may do well for a time, but as the years go by his land after going up to a certain pitch in value invariably declines as it becomes worked out, for the simple reason that that farm like a scrub pig consumes too much according to the amount that it produces. The result is disappointment and loss. How many localities can be picked out in the eastern provinces where settlers went in on light quick producing land, and spent the best years of their lives in making homes only to find that their land had become worthless through exhaustion, and that therefore their lives had been wasted; while others who went on deeper but more difficult land found a gold mine, which by keeping up its fertility while wealth and the conveniences of civilization increased around it, and because of it, continually increased in value, and made wealthy the owners almost in spite of themselves. This is the kind of land that the Edmonton district has to offer to settlers to a degree that no other part of the territories has. Where a man may take up a farm and be satisfied that his children's children will find it as fertile as he did. Where a man having once driven his stakes need never require to pull them up. To get a farm with such a soil is worth more than any little extra difficulty entailed in reaching here as compared with points along the line of the C. P. R. which nature has not so favored.

#### WHERE IS THE MOST HEALTHFUL CLIMATE?

One of the most important considerations to the farmer seeking a new home is the climate in its effect upon human health and pleasure, as well as upon the growth of farm stock and produce. It is almost a fixed rule that the person who has removed from an old to a new country must suffer from ill health for a considerable time until he becomes acclimatized, and until increasing civilization has changed the natural conditions of the country for the better. This is particularly the case where the country is level and the soil of great fertility as distinguished from hilly, rocky, or sandy tracts. That is to say

fertile country is more apt to be unhealthy in its natural condition than an infertile country. But in this particular the rule regarding farm stock and produce, which reach their greatest perfection near the northern limit of their growth, applies as well to the human race, only in a greater degree. Therefore it is found that the Canadian Northwest generally on account of its more northern latitude, if for no other reason, is a climate more conducive to health and more than the country further south in the United States, and that the new settler in the Canadian Northwest has a greater certainty of retaining his health and strength to their fullest degree—necessary above all things to the pioneer's success—than the settler south of the line. For this reason, though the soil of the Edmonton district is warmer and more fertile than that of any other part of the Canadian Northwest, as it is the most northerly settlement in what is known as the fertile belt, and, although level, situated at an elevation of about 2,000 feet above the sea, it enjoys a freedom from disease of any and every form that should not fail to be taken into account by the incoming settler. The Indians on the reserves, owing to the radical change in their method of life, do suffer from disease of various kinds. It is true, but it is a simple fact that amongst the white settlers, affections of the lungs, even the lightest kinds are almost unknown, the more severe kinds, including consumption, are entirely unknown, the low fever so common in Manitoba very rarely occurs and never in a severe form, even pulmonary such as the recent influenza, measles, and scarlet fever, are very light and very rare, and infant mortality, which makes up such a large proportion of the death rate in the eastern provinces, does not exist as a special feature here. There is no health resort in the known world where the resident population will more than compare favorably with that of Edmonton district, not merely in health but in growth and vigor as well. As a climate may be pleasant without being healthy, so it may be healthy without being pleasant, and if the healthfulness of the Edmonton climate is admitted it is still necessary to show that it is to some extent pleasant as well. Regarding the comparative amount of pleasure to be derived from existence under the many different climates of the world there must always be a very wide inference of opinion, but it must be evident that that climate which gives a person the best health and the greatest vigor has an

advantage which cannot be counterbalanced by any feature of a climate which detracts from health and vigor. Here the snow usually disappears between the 1st and 15th of April, leaving very little water on the ground. The weather remains cool at nights and warm during the day until about the fifteenth of May, after which date frosts are unusual, and plant growth begins to be rapid. Rain begins to fall early in June, and growth continues very rapid until about the middle of August. Haying commences about the middle or end of July; harvest from the middle or end of August, and is completed in September. Fall frosts begin from the 10th to the 25th of September, after which growth generally ceases, and the grass begins to wither; it generally remains partly green, however, so that it is good pasturage, until the ground freezes in the early part of November. There is seldom any rain after the first of August. Snow falls in November but does not get deep until after New Year's, nor does the weather become severe, until then. January and February are the months of cold and snow. In March the weather becomes warmer and the snow disappears. As compared with the climate of Manitoba the winter season is not so long, or stormy or so steadily severe, but at times the thermometer goes as low as in Manitoba. The influence of the west or chinook wind is what shortens the winter and from time to time relieves its severity by mild spells, while the abundance of timber scattered in clumps over the district shelters from the severity of the north wind, as the bare plains of Manitoba and the southern part of the Northwest are not. The blizzards or severe winter storms which are the terror of the plains, bringing business to a standstill, endangering life and destroying cattle on the ranges, are unknown in the Edmonton district. The weather is certainly stormy at times, but on account of the abundance of shelter and fuel no great inconvenience is experienced, there is no suffering and there is no danger. The climate differs from that of Southern Alberta in that being further removed from the mountains the chinook is not felt as strongly in winter. The winter weather is more steady and therefore preparations are always made for it, and there is none of the loss or suffering that occurs in Southern Alberta and Montana when the chinook that has been depended on fails to connect. As the southern country is at a higher elevation by at least a thousand feet and is unsheltered by timber, storms rage with greater fury there.



there is less rainfall or atmospheric moisture in summer and there is more danger of sudden falls of temperature which make the raising of wheat difficult and uncertain. To sum up, the climate of Edmonton is less severe than that of Manitoba and less changeable than that of Southern Alberta. The weather of the long dry spring and fall is the most enjoyable that can possibly be imagined. The winter is cold but calm, not disagreeable to any one if properly prepared for it and the most enjoyable season of all to many. The summer with its rains and hot sunshine makes up in luxuriance of growth what it lacks in other ways. Taken altogether the climate the year round at Edmonton is more enjoyable than that of any other part of Canada, and more conducive to health and strength as well. This phenomenal fertility of the soil and wonderful salubrity of the climate are the greatest attractions that any new country can possibly offer to the settler. Where these are found together the development of the region by railways and its occupation by capital and labor can only be a question of a short time; and where they are not, all the wealth of the world and all the appliances of civilization cannot provide them. These are facts that the intending settler would do well to consider fully before deciding on his permanent location.

#### WHERE CAN PLENTY OF LAND BE MOST EASILY SECURED?

Any possible advantage of soil or climate in any district is of no avail to the outsider if population is so crowded or land is held at so high a price as to prevent it from being acquired in sufficient quantity or at a reasonable rate. The Dominion lands act provides that a settler may acquire 160 acres of land as a homestead for a cash payment of \$10, accompanied by three years residence and a small amount of cultivation. This applies to each alternate square mile or even numbered section throughout the territories. The other alternate square mile or odd numbered section is reserved for sale or to be granted as a bonus in aid of railways. In the southern and eastern parts of the Territories these odd numbered sections are held at \$2.50 an acre in the northern and western portion at \$2 an acre. Up to the first of this year a pro-emption of 160 acres might be taken with the homestead to be paid for in three years at \$2 or \$2.50 an acre. This privilege is now abolished—unnwisely as many think, for they hold that 320 acres of

land is little enough to make a farm in the prairie portion of the Territories. But being abolished, the case must be taken as it stands and the settler must consider, if he is unable to purchase the remainder of what land he requires from the government, in what part of the Territories will 160 acres make a efficient farm and the best farm? One necessity of a large farm in the prairie districts is that as fuel and fencing have to be purchased at a high price a man must have a larger acreage under crop there than where these necessities can be had for nothing, to be on a footing of equality with the settler in the partly wooded country. Another, that the paying crop is wheat and in order that the wheat may be kept free from weeds and be sowed early enough it is necessary to keep half the cultivated land fallowed each year. Another that if stock is raised, as the growth of grass is comparatively scanty on the bare prairie and hay and water very scarce in most years, a larger area for pasture purposes is required than where the growth of grass is more luxuriant and hay and water abundant as in the partly timbered region of Northern Alberta. To cut the matter short: If the settler is restricted to 160 acres—which after all would be a good sized farm in Ontario—it is necessary in his own interest that he shall choose the very best 160 acres with the very best surroundings that he can get. Owing to the greater depth and richness of the soil, the more pleasant and healthy climate, the luxuriant growth of grass and the abundance of wood, water and hay to be found in the Edmonton district as distinguished from every other part of the Territories 160 acres of selected land here is of more value to the actual settler—it will make him a better farm—than 320 on the bare plains, and besides if he has the opportunity to purchase from the government he can purchase at a less price and possibly on easier terms. When it is further considered that the choice is not between 160 acres at Edmonton and 320 on the plains, but between 160 acres in each district, it will be seen that the settler who chooses the prairie loses the opportunity of his life. The settler who comes in now while settlement is still comparatively sparse has the opportunity to secure a location for nothing, having regard to its soil, situation and surroundings, which it would cost him many years of hard labor to purchase if he comes in a year or two hence.

#### WHY THERE IS NO RAILWAY.

The one objection felt by the settler to the Edmonton district is that it is without railway communication. This is an objection on two grounds: The first that existence cannot be pleasant or profitable so far away from railway communication, and the second that if the district was so superior the C. P. R. would certainly have ran through it as originally surveyed instead of taking the more southern route. The answer to the first objection is that although the absence of railways is a serious drawback, the superior natural advantages of the country have counterbalanced that drawback to such an extent that settlers here have been more uniformly successful—considering their uniform lack of capital at commencement—than in any other section of the country; and in any case this is a drawback that is on the eve of being removed. The Northwest Central railway from the east, now in strong hands, and the Edmonton and Calgary railway from the south, which like the Regina & Long Lake, is a branch of the C. P. R., both of which have Edmonton for their objective point, will be under rapid construction during the present season. Both have liberal land grants and no one can in reason doubt their early completion. Regarding the second objection, that if this had been the best country the C. P. R. would have come this way, the answer is that the main line of the C. P. R. was built as a competing trans-continental line over the shortest route, and that from the first it was intended to depend upon branch lines for the development of the best agricultural areas of the Northwest. In proof of this it may be cited that from the first the C. P. R. provided that they might reject the land along their main line as unfit for settlement and take it where they chose. They have as a matter of fact rejected a large part of the middle and western section of the railway belt as unfit for settlement and have selected in its place an area of Northern Alberta adjoining and partly included in the Edmonton district. This should be proof positive as to the vast superiority of the land in this region. If it pays the railway company, which wants to sell the land, to select it away from their main line, it will surely better pay the settler who wants to use it to follow that example. It should be borne in mind that it was on the reputation of the Edmonton district, as established by the early missionaries, traders and travellers, that the reputation of the whole Northwest as a field

for settlement was founded. Experience, which was expected to prove the superiority of other districts, has on the contrary more firmly and clearly established the superiority of this, where was located the pioneer settlement in all these vast territories.

#### ARTIFICIAL CONDITIONS.

Are the conditions of the Edmonton district favorable to a settler starting on a small capital? When the intending settler first hears that Edmonton is 200 miles from the nearest railway station, he is apt to jump to the conclusion that as supplies which he would have to purchase have to be hauled so far they must be very dear, and as the produce that he would have to sell would have to be hauled as far to reach an export market it must be very cheap, and therefore the business of farming cannot be as profitable at such a distance from the railway as on the line. If the natural advantages of the country along the line were equal to those of the region so far away, almost of course; it would be folly not to choose the country having the advantage of easy access to the railway as a field for settlement. But as the settler must raise produce before he can either buy or sell, it is more important that his natural surroundings should be favorable—especially in his first years of pioneering—than that there should be abundance of stores crowded with cheap goods that he would not have the money to buy, or that he should be furnished with railway facilities for the transportation of produce that he did not have to sell. In the first place it may be well to point out that the distance from the railway is not such a drawback as those unacquainted with the facts might easily suppose, especially to the farmer whose business is on his farm and not on the railway train. As the country between Edmonton and the railway is either park or prairie, the road is good all the year round, except for a short time in a wet summer, and traffic is carried on with as much safety and regularity as if there was railway communication. The difference is in the length of time required to make the trip and the rate paid for freight. A weekly mail stage runs from Calgary and occupies five days on the trip each way, so that Edmonton is on a par with most districts in the matter of postal facilities and has telegraphic communication as well. The rate on freight is from one to two cents a pound. On heavy goods such as sugar, salt, etc., this adds materially

to the cost, but on tea, tobacco, fancy groceries, dry goods and boots and shoes, it will be seen that the extra cost by reason of the freight from Calgary is very small. To counterbalance the freight rates, as Edmonton is an old established and important trade depot for the immense territory included in the Mackenzie basin, there are comparatively large number of strong competing business firms established here, who, buying in large quantities in the best markets and on the lowest terms, are enabled to sell goods at prices no higher on the average than those paid to the country store keepers in any outlying district of Manitoba; for what is paid extra on sugar and salt is made up in the lower prices—on account of greater competition—in dry goods, and other articles. To sum up this feature of the case. The Edmonton settler although 200 miles from the railway is not at any serious disadvantage in the matter of telegraph or postal facilities or prices of supplies as compared with settlers nearer the railway line. As to the market for his surplus produce: Although the population of Edmonton district and the region tributary to it numbers a good many thousands of people, chiefly Indians, the part of the population which produces a yearly surplus of farm produce is comparatively small, and the consequence is that owing to the demands of ordinary trade, and the supplies required by the federal government for the police division stationed in the district and the treaty Indians resident in it as well, with a little shorted to Battleford occasionally, the local market has taken, at prices much higher than those paid along the railway line, all the surplus produce of all kinds that has yet been raised. Except in the matter of oats and occasionally potatoes the local demand has never yet been fully supplied from local sources. The natural result has been that the settlers who established themselves in the country a few years ago have almost uniformly done well. Of course if a large number of settlers came in now they could not expect to have the same advantage of a local market, and would, after their own wants and the local demand were supplied, have to depend on the export of their produce for their profits. The distance to the railway at present is certainly too great to permit of the profitable export of wheat or other grains or vegetables, but it is not too great for the export of cattle on foot. The raising of cattle is the branch of farming for which this region is specially adapted, for

which it offers greater advantages than any other part of the continent of North America. This is the product upon which the farmer should naturally depend as his principal article of export, just as in some sections of Ontario the dependence is upon fall wheat, in others on barley, in others on dairy products and in still others on fruit. A thousand dollars worth of cattle can be marketed more cheaply from Edmonton at Calgary than a thousand dollars worth of wheat, barley or fruit can be marketed ten miles from where it is grown. Cattle are the most profitable product even in Ontario, they are much more profitable in the Edmonton district owing to cheaper land and superior advantages, therefore the Edmonton settler although 200 miles from the railway is at no disadvantage regarding the export of his principal and most profitable product as compared with the Manitoba wheat farmer living ten miles from the railway station. Horses, the most valuable product of the farm can be marketed at the railway as cheaply as cattle, and until the railway is extended to Edmonton the present freight rates will permit of the profitable export of dairy products, bacon and wool.

#### NATURAL CONDITIONS.

Considered in the light of the facts the distance from the railway is not such a serious matter after all, and as a set off to that present disadvantage there is much to be considered the superior natural advantages which the Edmonton district has to offer as compared with other sections of the Territories and, particularly with the prairie region along the C. P. R. line. The settler on the prairie who locates within twenty miles of a railway market town, and who is not more than twenty miles from fuel timber, is fairly fortunate. He does not expect to get building material except from the railway and rail timber for fencing he does without. In the Edmonton district a settler may take a farm which either has timber as well as prairie land on it or which if all prairie is not more than a mile or two distant from abundance of fuel and rail timber nor more than four or five miles distant from abundance of excellent building timber. To the intending settler with small capital the cost of his house and the procuring of sufficient fuel for the winter are most serious matters. He must draw heavily on his scanty store of cash for lumber at high prices, and must be satisfied with a very small and very poor

house—hotel would in many cases be a more appropriate name. His fuel he must spend many days in hauling, running his horses down in condition and risking his own life in the prairie storms, and can never be sure that he has enough—must always be stinted in its use. He cannot fence his grain crops and therefore what few cattle he can find hay for he must have herded by day and tied up at night. In the Edmonton district the size of the settler's house depends chiefly on the amount of labor and skill which he is willing to expend upon it. Logs are large and easily procured, and lumber and shingles of Edmonton manufacture are reasonable in price. The settler can have a better house for less money in this district than in any other part of the Territories. His fuel can be cut and hauled in not many more hours than his prairie neighbor would require days, without injury to his horses or discomfort or danger to himself, and its use need never be stinted. He can at the expense of only his own labor fence both grain and pasture fields, thereby greatly reducing his expenses and chances of loss regarding both crops and stock. To return for a moment to the matter of distance from railway: The settler who lives 20 miles from wood and requires to use twenty loads in a year travels each year for wood 800 miles. The settler requires say one load of groceries, dry goods, etc. in a year, which if he chooses to bring from the railway he can do so by travelling 400 miles. Therefore while the Edmonton settler can live in a better house, and have more abundant fuel, he can have his supplies at railroad price and do 400 miles less travelling in the year than the settler 20 miles from wood, although living right at the railroad station. The abundance of wood in the Edmonton district is proof of the abundance of water as compared with the prairie region where wood does not grow, and the abundance of water ensures a more luxuriant pasturage and better growth of hay. Besides the Saskatchewan river, a navigable stream 1,000 feet wide at low water, the district is well supplied with fresh water ponds and creeks and well water can be had in abundance almost anywhere at a depth of from 20 to 50 feet. The advantage to the stock raiser of having a good supply of good water the year round cannot be overestimated. It makes the difference between extensive and profitable stock raising and the pursuit of that industry under difficulties which is absolutely prevented its being carried on

either extensively or profitably. Second only in importance to the abundance of water is the luxuriance of the pasturage and the abundance of hay. An acre of land in the Edmonton district will pasture more cattle than five acres in the southern part of the prairie region, partly because the growth is more rank and rapid and partly because the season of growth is longer, owing to the greater moisture. It is held as an advantage of the prairie region and especially of the southern portion that cattle may in most winters remain on the ranges without being fed hay and do well, as they cannot in the northern or partly timbered portions of the country. It is true that the snow as a rule lies deeper in the partly timbered region than on the plains because the wind whether warm or cold has less chance to sweep it off, but it is an established fact that in no part of the prairie region can cattle be wintered safely as a rule without a supply of hay being secured for them. It is more difficult to secure the small quantity of hay needed on the bare dry plains than to secure the larger quantity required in the Edmonton district, while it is just as necessary to secure the hay in the one case as in the other; and in all but the western part of the prairie region as much hay is required as at Edmonton. To compensate for the slight disadvantage of being further from the railway the settler in the Edmonton district gets a better house for less money, he can have plenty of comfortable outbuildings, he has an abundant supply of fuel for practically nothing, he can fence extensively at no cash outlay, he has abundance of wholesome water for himself and his stock, he has the most luxuriant pasturage, and hay in such abundance and so easily procured as to place him on a better footing to raise good cattle cheaply than the stockman in the best part of the ranching country, and a hundred times better than the settler on the more easterly prairies.

#### SOCIAL CONDITIONS.

After all questions regarding soil, climate, products, present conditions and future prospects are answered there still remain questions of importance equal to or greater than any of these. The people are more important than the country. Bad neighbors, bad laws, or bad government, a lack of educational facilities or religious privileges cannot be made up to the law abiding, industrious, thrifty, progressive and God fearing men or women.

by the most productive soil or most genial climate. It is generally the drawback of new countries that the laws are weakly enforced, that there is a numerous lawless class, and that the man who goes into the wilderness to make a home for himself must be content to see his children grow up in ignorance, and without the restraining influences of religion which would be felt in older and more densely peopled districts. In these particulars the Canadian Northwest is incomparably superior to any other country in process of settlement in the world. Throughout the length and breadth of these Territories the law is as rigidly enforced, the industrious man is protected in his person and in the results of his labors as thoroughly as in the most populous rural district of Ontario. There is no lawless class, there is none of that defiance of law and destruction of order that is popularly supposed to be an outgrowth of pioneer life. The eastern settler coming to the Canadian Northwest finds himself amongst people who are as deeply impressed with the necessity and advantage of maintaining law and order as were his neighbors in the east. Where population is scattered as it necessarily is in the first settlement of a new country it is of course impossible that educational facilities should be as abundant as where there is a greater concentration of population and wealth, but as far as has been possible the adverse conditions existing have been made up for. Four heads of families may form a school district, and when formed the government pays from 65 to 75 per cent of the teacher's salary, thereby reducing the cost on the ratepayers to a merely nominal amount. This is unquestionably the most liberal provision for the support of schools in the world. With a population of something over 50,000 exclusive of Indians, there are over 200 organized school districts in the Northwest. Matters of religion are as well attended to as those of education. There is not a settlement in the Territories of any consequence in which religious services are not held. In these particulars, the Edmonton district is not inferior to any other in the Territories. A division of mounted police, with headquarters at Fort Saskatchewan and several outposts, ensure obedience to the law. Supreme court sits at Edmonton twice a year so that redress for wrongs done is readily available by process of civil law. There are twelve school districts within a radius of twenty miles of Edmonton. There are missionaries of the Church of England,

Presbyterian, Methodist and Roman Catholic churches stationed at Edmonton; and St. Albert, nine miles distant, is the ecclesiastical capital of the Roman Catholic diocese of St. Albert, which includes the greater part of the Northwest Territories.

### EDMONTON DISTRICT.

The Edmonton district occupies the North-western corner of the Fertile Belt of Canada and includes the upper portion of the Great Saskatchewan valley. It runs from the Battle river on the south about 150 miles to the Athabasca on the north, having the Saskatchewan near its centre, and extends from the summit of the Rocky mountains eastward about 300 miles to the 111th meridian, the eastern boundary of the provisional district of Alberta. The town of Edmonton, a little south and east of the centre of the district is in latitude, 53½ the same as the Queen Charlotte Islands on the Pacific coast—which is about 400 miles distant from the western boundary of the Edmonton district; as Dublin in Ireland, Liverpool and York in England, the northern part of Holland, Hamburg in Germany—Berlin, Germany, is a very little south of 53—and considerably south of the centre of Russia, being 455 miles further south than St. Petersburg the capital. Edmonton is further south than any part of Scotland, Denmark, Norway or Sweden.

The Edmonton district does not include any part of the true prairie or Great Plains, although on the southeast it extends nearly to the limits of the plains. In the west and northwest it is thickly timbered with poplar, spruce, tamarac and birch, a great deal of it of large size. Along the Saskatchewan and its tributaries above the town of Edmonton is the largest supply and best quality of spruce timber for sawing in the Territories. The Pembina, Athabasca and McLeod rivers and their tributaries which flow through the northwestern part of the district also have large quantities of sawing timber on their banks. In the centre, east and southeast, the entirely timbered country is replaced by a park region of prairie and timber interspersed, which commences about forty miles west and north of the town of Edmonton and extends to the southern and eastern limits of the district. Towards the south and east the prairie spaces become wider and the timber of smaller size, and not far beyond the limits of the district the true treeless prairie begins.

and extends unbroken to the Gulf of Mexico. In this district it will be seen the settler can take his choice between a location having no timber, one partly timbered and one all timbered, but he cannot find a place where he will be very far removed from timber or where he will not feel to some extent its sheltering and beneficial effects, nor can there be enough settlers in the park region of the district, to exhaust the timber supply of the entirely wooded region. It is a peculiarity of this district that, there is a larger growth of timber close to open and fertile prairie than in any other section of the territories so that the settler may have both building timber and plow land more convenient to each other here than any where else.

#### FARM PRODUCTS.

Although the geology and topography of the Edmonton district do not differ greatly from that of the adjoining prairie districts, climatic or other causes have made a great difference in the depth and richness of the soil and its products. Two to three feet of the blackest of black mould against six inches to a foot on the bare prairie and a growth of grass, pea vine, etc., from one to four feet in height against a growth of buffalo grass of five or six inches at most. The cause of this greater fertility is no doubt greater moisture, for there cannot be fertility without moisture. The more fertile soil permits a more abundant growth of cultivated grains and vegetables, and the farmer gets better returns. Oats are the most certain and heaviest crop, barley and wheat about equal. These three grains have given heavier returns in this district than anywhere else in North America. Peas have not been tried extensively. Potatoes, Cabbages, turnips, beets, carrots, celery, cauliflower and all the hardy vegetables show a wonderful growth and are a sure crop. The delicate vegetables can be grown, but not profitably. Wild strawberries, black currants, raspberries, goose berries, cranberries, Saskatoon berries and choke cherries are abundant. Cultivated red currants grow remarkably well and yield abundantly. The growth of other cultivated varieties of fruit has not passed the experimental stage.

#### STOCK.

Live stock of all kinds is raised extensively and does well in the Edmonton district, including horses of all grades from heavy draught to Indian ponies, horned cattle,

sheep, pigs and poultry, including turkeys. Native horses do well on the range all the year round, but good stock of whatever kind requires good treatment to bring it to its best, when it is most profitable. In its climate and facilities, for raising good cattle this district leads the rest of the Territories. There is a more abundant, varied and nutritive pasturage during a longer season in summer, there is a more abundant supply of hay procurable for winter feeding, there is a more abundant and universally distributed water supply, there are less summer or winter storms and more shelter by means of woods from those which occur, building timber is more easily procured with which to put up stables for the winter, being nearer the Pacific—the source of the chinook,—the winter climate is less severe than that of that of the districts along the Saskatchewan further east. As a consequence a better class of cattle can be raised more cheaply and with less danger of loss in this district than anywhere else in the Territories and therefore there is more money in the business here. The same advantages which tell so heavily in favor of this district for cattle raising tell as heavily in its favor for dairying. There is a larger flow of richer milk for a longer season than elsewhere, and the quality of the butter made here is unsurpassed. Fresh butter is put upon the market in the latter end of February or the early part of March and the supply continues until November. Sheep do well but are not kept extensively as cattle are less trouble and more profitable. The abundant yield of coarse grains and roots make hog raising a very profitable branch of the farmer's business. Poultry thrive excellently and fresh eggs are plentiful every year early in March. Turkeys were introduced in 1881 and are now raised in large numbers. An experiment in bee keeping has been carried on during the past two years. Twenty swarms, an increase from six, are being wintered this year. The men who are engaged in the experiment are confident that bee keeping will be a great success in this region owing to the abundance of honey bearing flowers and the long season of bloom.

#### GAME.

The larger wild animals, such as moose, and bear and the smaller fur bearing animals such as beaver, otter, fisher, etc., are numerous in the thickly wooded districts, and in the Rocky Mountains the big horn sheep and

mountain goats are a great attraction to sportsmen. In the park region there are jumping deer, a small variety, which yield excellent sport and fair venison.

Wolves are the only wild animals which are dangerous and they are very rare, not running in packs as in the east. Coyotes—an animal between the fox and wolf—are not dangerous but sometimes steal chickens and lambs. Rabbits become so numerous every seventh year as to almost amount to a pest in winter, but they quickly decrease. The gopher, which is such a pest and source of loss to the farmer all over the prairie region of North America is almost unknown in the Edmonton district as he does not like to burrow in such a depth of soft black mould. The loss of crop by gophers in the prairie regions in a dry year varies from a third to the whole, and to destroy the gophers has become an important question to the governments of the Canadian provinces and adjoining states. This is a question which the settler in the Edmonton district has not to consider.

The numerous lakes and ponds of the district abound in ducks all summer furnishing excellent and never failing sport. The larger lakes, such as Beaver lake forty miles east of Edmonton, are visited by immense flocks of waveys, geese, swans, etc., in their annual flights north and south in the spring and fall respectively, and these are killed in large numbers. Prairie chickens are numerous in the prairie spaces, and partridges in the woods. Cranes, very large and handsome birds which frequent the open prairie, are also found but they are not so numerous as on the great plains.

#### FISH.

Sturgeon in the Saskatchewan and whitefish in the large lakes in the western and northern part of the district are the principal fish. The latter are particularly abundant and fine flavored, equal to any fish in the world. They are sold in Edmonton in winter at from \$5 to \$10 per hundred fish. Salmon trout of large size, pike, pickerel and gold eyes, are the only fish taken with the hook and line.

#### MINERALS.

Coal of excellent quality is found almost everywhere in the district at a depth of from ten to 100 feet below the surface in seams from two to thirty feet in thickness. The coal burned in the town of Edmonton is mined directly under it, tunnels being run in on

the coal seams from the face of the river banks. Four mines are worked within the town limits, the coal is universally used for heating, cooking, steam raising and blacksmithing, and is delivered from the mines at \$3 a ton. The Sturgeon river settlers use coal taken from the bank of a small tributary of the Sturgeon in that settlement, and indeed coal is easily accessible in every part of the district where a stream cuts a deep enough valley to expose the seam.

Gold is found on the bars of the Saskatchewan in the form of fine dust. It was discovered over twenty years ago and has been worked to a greater or less extent every year since. Last season between \$15,000 and \$20,000 worth was mined chiefly by settlers living along the banks who worked on the river during the slack season. The outfit necessary for mining costs perhaps ten dollars, and the pay is from \$2 to \$5 a day. The deposits of pay dirt are so extensive that it is estimated that twenty years will be required to work them out at the rate of last season. The Macleod river in the north-western part of the district also has gold in paying quantities. These are not rich diggings. They are in fact what are called "poor man's diggings." They will never make a man rich, but they may easily help an industrious poor man along.

Sandstone quarries exist in many places along the river, which is navigable for steamers, and there are large quantities of limestone boulders on the bars, sufficient for present use, but only one limestone quarry has yet been discovered, although there is no doubt that others exist.

Traces of petroleum have been found in various parts of the district but no satisfactory developments have been made. A little over 200 miles north of Edmonton on the Athabasca river, in a region whose trade is directly tributary to Edmonton, begins the most extensive petroleum deposit in the known world, as established by the survey of the Canadian government geologists. Further north on the same waters is an immense salt deposit, the product of which has been used for many years throughout the Mackenzie river basin.

#### SCENERY.

The scenery of the Edmonton district is not its least attractive feature. The gently undulating surface showing prairie and woods charmingly interspersed, cut deeply by the Saskatchewan—a stream 1,000 feet wide

low water—and numerous smaller tributary streams and creeks, dotted with large and small fresh water ponds and lakes, the horizon marked on all sides by low heavily wooded hills which seem covered with a blue haze, clumps of spruce here and there giving a deeper color in places—the whole makes a picture of calm beauty seldom seen except on canvas, and most refreshing to the eye that has for days or weeks or years searched the bare plains of the south for some object of beauty or interest on which to rest.

Regarding this region J. B. Tyrrell, of the Dominion geological survey says on page 16 of his report on Northern Alberta: "More to the northward, clumps of willow appear, and a little further on groves of poplar occur around the lakes and on the northern slopes of the hills, spreading out in places so as to cover areas of considerable extent. We have now reached the partly wooded country. The soil has become richer and deeper, and instead of the short buffalo grass of the plains, the grass is longer and mixed with a thick growth of vetch and pea vine, forming excellent pasture. This partly wooded country, lying between the Great Plains to the south and the forests of the north, has for many years attracted the favorable notice of travellers, and is even yet best known to many by the name 'Fertile Belt' which was given to it by Dr. Hector in 1861."

On page 55 of Tyrrell's report appears a description of the scenery along the Saskatchewan where it flows through the eastern part of the Edmonton district given by a traveller named Gabriel Franchère, who sailed down it in 1814: "The river Saskatchewan flows over a bed composed of sand and marl, which contributes not a little to diminish the purity and transparency of its waters, which like those of the Missouri, are turbid and whitish. Except for that it is one of the prettiest rivers in the world. The banks are perfectly charming, and offer in many places a scene the fairest, the most smiling and the best diversified that can be seen or imagined: hills in varied forms, crowned with superb groves; valleys agreeably embrowned at evening and morning by the prolonged shadow of the hills, and of the woods which adorn them; herds of light limbed antelope, and heavy colossal buffalo—the former bounding along the slopes of the hills, the latter trampling under their heavy feet the verdure of the plains; all these champaign beauties reflected and doubled as it were, by the waters of the

river; the melodious and varied song of a thousand birds perched on the tree tops; the refreshing breath of the zephyrs; the serenity of the sky, the purity and salubrity of the air; all, in a word, pour contentment and joy into the soul of the enchanted spectator. It is above all in the morning when the sun is rising and in the evening when it is setting that the spectacle is really ravishing.—How came it to pass, I said to myself, that so beautiful a country is not inhabited by human creatures? The songs, the hymns, the prayers of the laborer and the artisan, shall they never be heard on these fine plains? Wherefore, while in Europe, and above all in England, so many thousands of men do not possess as their own an inch of ground and cultivate the soil of their country for proprietors who scarcely leave them whereon to support existence; wherefore do so many millions of acres of apparently fat and fertile land remain uncultivated and support only herds of wild animals? Will men always love better to vegetate all their lives on an ungrateful soil, than to seek afar fertile regions in order to pass in peace and plenty at least a portion of their days?" The description is as accurate as vivid, but it is a mistake to suppose that the water of the Saskatchewan is always muddy. When the stream is swollen by thaws or rains it becomes whitish, as the traveller says, but for the greater part of the year it flows past Edmonton as clear as the most beautiful brook.

#### SETTLEMENT.

The Edmonton settlement is the oldest in the Territories and dates from the establishment of trading posts by the Hudson's Bay and Northwest trading companies on the site of the present town of Edmonton, probably before the beginning of the present century. Owing to geographical position and other natural causes it was the most important post owned by the Hudson's Bay company in what is now the Northwest Territories. The first permanent settlements in the district were established with Edmonton as a central point, at Lake St. Ann, Lac la Pêche, St. Albert, Victoria, Whitefish Lake and St. Paul, before the transfer of the Territories to Canada in 1870, chiefly by missionary enterprise, whereby the half breeds and Indians were gathered into settled communities. All of these are still in existence except St. Paul. The Edmonton settlement surrounding and including the present town in which the H. B. Co. fort is situated was not commenced



until after the transfer in 1870. Ever since that time there has been a constantly increasing population increasingly dependent upon agricultural pursuits for support. The early C. P. R. surveys through the Jasper pass, for which Edmonton was the base of supplies, brought the place somewhat prominently before the eastern public and in 1880 and 1881, when it was finally decided to build the line there was a large influx of Canadian settlers, who expected the railway to follow in a few years. The change of route by way of the Kicking Horse pass, which carried the line 200 miles south of Edmonton was a severe disappointment to them. Notwithstanding this, population and prosperity has steadily, though slowly, increased, and Edmonton settlement has spread so as to include a tract of country about 25 miles long by 20 miles wide, having a population of over 3,000. Within that area there are schools and churches, stores and hotels, shops and mills, telegraph and telephone just as in the better and more populous settlements of Manitoba. There is 5,131 acres under cultivation and 3,649 cattle, 953 horses, 1,483 pigs, and 707 sheep are owned. Outside that area there is practically no settlement, although equal opportunities for the enterprising man, until the outlying settlements mentioned above are reached.

#### TOWN.

The town of Edmonton is situated chiefly on the North bank of the Saskatchewan on the 14th base line between townships 52 and 53, in range 24 west of the 4th meridian, and in sections 2 and 3 of 53 and 32 and 33 of 52. The population is a little over 500. It contains the Hudson's Bay Company's establishment, which is the supply depot of that company for its various outlying posts in the Edmonton district and the forwarding depot for the Peace, Athabasca and Mackenzie river districts of the north, which include the whole Mackenzie basin to the Arctic ocean and part of the Yukon as well; six large mercantile establishments whose stocks contain everything from sides of bacon to ostrich plumes; hardware, drug, jewelry and stationery, furniture, and millinery stores; newspaper office, shoe shop, harness shop, tailor shop, four blacksmith shops, four carpenter shops, two butcher shops, a bakery, boat building and carriage repairing establishment, photograph gallery, four churches, two schools, four hotels, Dominion lands

agency, registry office, crown timber office, telegraph office, post office with money order facilities, police station, an extensive telephone service, large grist and saw mill with all kinds of wood dressing machinery, and a brick yard. The supreme court sits at Edmonton twice a year, and it is at the present head of steamboat navigation on the river.

#### VILLAGES.

At Fort Saskatchewan eighteen miles further down the river, is the headquarters of the mounted police division, two general stores, post office, telegraph office, hotel, blacksmith and carpenter shop, and bakery. The Saskatchewan is crossed at both Edmonton and Fort Saskatchewan by means of large ferry scows, which are safely, quickly and easily operated.

At St. Albert, nine miles northwest of Edmonton on the Sturgeon river, are two general stores, blacksmith and carpenter shops, post office and telephone connection with Edmonton, the cathedral church of St. Albert Roman Catholic diocese is situated there, with the residence of the Bishop, and a convent of sisters of charity, who conduct a hospital and orphanage. There are also two hotels and a steam flouring mill.

At Clover Bar on the South side of the Saskatchewan, half way between Edmonton and Fort Saskatchewan, there is a post office. All four post offices mentioned have a weekly mail service from Calgary.

#### SAWMILLS.

About forty miles west of Edmonton Moore & Macdowall and Lamoureux Bros. have saw mills, equipped with all machinery for dressing lumber. The former have a lumber yard in Edmonton; and the latter depend chiefly on the Battleford market, which they reach by rafting down the river.

#### TRADE PROSPECTS.

The advantages of situation for the present and future enjoyed by Edmonton as a trade centre are: The most fertile farming country by which it is entirely surrounded, suitable in the highest degree for profitable stock raising and dairying as well. The coal deposits which underlie the town and extend for at least one hundred and fifty miles up the river, which is large enough to permit light draught steamers to bring the coal down and deliver it at points further down the river where there is no coal. The supply of sawing timber on the upper part of the river and its tributaries, for which a continually

extending market will be made by the settlement of the more open country further down the river, and of which Edmonton is and will be the milling depot. The gold washings of the river which extend for a distance of about 80 miles below and the same distance above Edmonton, which will yield a small revenue for many years; The trade of the Mackenzie basin, an area of 1,200 miles from north to south by 800 from east to west, which embraces large agricultural areas, valuable forests, immense lakes stocked with white fish, vast deposits of petroleum, salt and sulphur, and doubtless other minerals of value, as it is believed by geologists that the gold of the Saskatchewan was brought by glacial action from the part of the Laurentian range which bounds the Mackenzie basin on the east—the whole of which trade is from natural reasons tributary to Edmonton. It is the fur trade of this vast region which at the present time gives the Edmonton farmer a better local market than other settlements along the Saskatchewan have. This trade keeps employed three large steamers the Athabasca, the Grabame, and the Wrigley, on the waters of the Mackenzie and causes an immense amount of freighting from the railway at Calgary, which is principally done by the Edmonton settlers and adds greatly to the revenue of the district.

Any railroad crossing the Rocky Mountains by the Jasper pass, will run either through or near to Edmonton; and any railroad striking from south to north to reach the navigable waters of the Mackenzie at the Athabasca landing, must cross the Saskatchewan at or near Edmonton. There is bound to be a great trade and railroad centre some place in this district and the present town of Edmonton is most likely to be the place.

#### MEANS OF COMMUNICATION.

Mails, travellers, and nine tenths of the freight reach Edmonton by trail of 190 miles from Calgary. The road is passable at all seasons of the year and is generally good. There is very little settlement along the trail so that in summer stock can be driven freely, grazing as they go, and freighters' cattle and horses can get enough to eat without being stabled. There are houses about every ten miles where travellers can be entertained, generally comfortably but not luxuriously, and offering convenient shelter in case of winter travelling. For sixty miles north of Calgary the country is bare rolling prairie, the Rocky mountains showing up grandly to

the west. The partly wooded country there commences at the Lone Pine and continues to Edmonton. The Red Deer and Battle rivers and several large creeks are crossed, but all of importance are bridged except the Red Deer upon which there is a ferry when the water is high enough to permit it to run. At other times the ford is good. The stage fare is \$15 to \$25 and the freight rate one to three cents a pound. The trip is five days by stage and eight to twelve days by freight. When the roads are good it can easily be made in four days, by a smart team.

There is water communication with Winnipeg by means of the Saskatchewan river and Lake Winnipeg, and during the past ten years from one to five steamers have visited Edmonton each year, except last, bringing passengers and freight from Winnipeg. But that route is so circuitous, and uncertain on account of bad connections and low water, that the over land route by way of Calgary is preferred. As soon as the Regina & Long lake railway is completed to the Saskatchewan, however, which will be not later than August of the present season, the river route to the east will be the most direct and will no doubt be patronized extensively, especially for heavy and unwieldy freight. The Saskatchewan steamers will also be patronized by tourist travel. At present however, the route by Calgary is the best for every one to take.

#### RAILWAY PROSPECTS.

Regarding railway prospects in the immediate future: Edmonton is the objective point of a dozen railway schemes, but of these only two give promise of early completion—the Northwest Central and the Calgary & Edmonton. The former has a charter to extend from Brandon to the Pacific coast by way of the Jasper pass. The scheme hung fire for years, but last fall a start was made, the first fifty miles completed, a train service established on it, and every assurance given that the road would be pushed to completion at a rapid rate. This road has the usual land grant of 6,400 acres a mile. A charter has been in existence under one name or another during the past six years covering the ground between Calgary & Edmonton, but the parties into whose hands the charter under the name of the Alberta & Northwestern last fall have transferred their rights to Messrs. Ross, Mann & Holt, who are constructing the Regina & Long Lake road for the C. P. R., and whom the C. P. R. are doubtless backing in securing a charter under the

name of the Calgary & Edmonton railway. A land grant of 10,000 acres a mile goes with this charter. It is understood that construction will be commenced on this line in the latter part of this season, and that it will be completed not later than next year. Of course these are only prospects, and they may not be immediately realized, but it will certainly not be long until by one hand or another both the Great Northwest Central and the Calgary & Edmonton railways will be completed, placing the whole of the Great Saskatchewan Valley in touch with the rest of the world.

#### WHY LOCATE NOW?

The reason for the settler locating at Edmonton now, in advance of the railway, when so much land having railway facilities lies open for occupation, is that by coming to Edmonton he gets natural advantages which do not and can never exist in other parts of the country; he has a choice of location within reach of schools, churches, mills, stores, and government offices which he will not have if he waits until the railway is built, and which he has not in any other district of the territories no matter how close the railway line may be; he has the opportunity to locate near what is now an important market town and the trade centre of a larger district than any other town or city in Canada; he has the fullest opportunity to establish himself in a permanent and comfortable home, and reasonable assurance that as soon as he needs the railway it will be at his door. It is a well known fact that, when the railway is being built is when the farmer makes most money. The settler who comes in before the railway and by having a surplus of crop and stock is prepared to take advantage of the temporary boom caused by construction, and the consequent immigration, has by just so much the advantage over the settler who comes in after construction is completed, when all choice locations are taken either by settlers or speculators, when hay lands have been gobbled and woods cut down, and when the markets ten thousand miles away, less freight charges and retail dealers' and middlemen's profits irrevocably rule prices. It is the greatest mistake settlers can make to wait until railway construction is completed and then flock into any district and undertake to farm on principles laid down in the railway company's immigration pamphlets, compiled by men who know nothing of what they write and if

possible care less. By coming to the Edmonton district while there is still plenty of choice of locations the new settler has the advantage not only of the appliances of civilization which are the result of the enterprise of those who came before him, but also of their years of practical experience, through which the special advantages and drawbacks of the district have been proven. If he goes to a section of country newly opened up, he must get along without these appliances of civilization and must experiment for himself and most likely suffer many losses and disappointments before the various qualities of the soil and the many changes of the climate are thoroughly understood.

#### WHO SHOULD COME.

Men used to farm work who are anxious to make a home for themselves are those to whom this district offers the greatest inducements. Capital is not so necessary as intelligence and energy. Any man who has these two qualities in a high degree can make a start on very small capital and do well. At the same time laboring men—that is men who are simply looking for wages and not a home—are not in demand here and can probably do as well elsewhere. There is a good deal of work of one kind and another going on from time to time and wages are good, but there are generally plenty of men making a start on farms and having no capital who require all the work and wages going to help them along. The settler should have to start with, a yoke of oxen or span of horses, a wagon, plow, and harrows, cash enough to supply him with seed and food for at least a year; and if he has any more money let him put it into young cows. Such an outfit can be bought in Edmonton probably as cheaply as it can be purchased elsewhere, but if the farmer in the east has such an outfit of his own the colonial railway rates are so low that it will pay him to bring it through to Calgary by train and then drive over land to Edmonton. While this district offers special advantages to settlers with small capital, those of larger capital will also find advantages suitable to their means in the line of stock raising. Stock and dairy farms carrying from 100 to 500 head of cattle can be established in hundreds of localities throughout the district, specially suited to that industry, where it can be carried on with greater certainty and far greater profit than on the boasted ranges of the south. As the cattle are full fed all the year round they grow to

tor size and have better beef, more delicate and better bred animals can be reared, & corralled at least all winter they are easily tractable, and the cows can be used for dairying purposes or the oxen broken out without difficulty, beef cattle can be sent to market with less risk and at less expense and are therefore much more valuable for shipment alive to Europe, for which weakness of the range cattle naturally injures them. While engaged in raising the farmer may raise produce which will help considerably to lighten his expenses and at the same time make improvements in preparation for the time when increased settlement will compel a sale from stock raising purely to mixed farming, by raising the value of land.

## FACTS FOR SETTLERS.

### GENERAL EXPERIENCE.

The following evidence taken from the experience of practical men regarding this district and its advantages positive and comparative, and also the opportunities which offer in certain lines of enterprise will be of interest. The gentlemen whose names are given here may be applied to personally by letter for the substantiation of the facts given and for further information:

Geo Gieson of St. Albert road was born at St. Henneville, Dorchester County, Quebec, came to Edmonton from the mines of British Columbia in 1875 and engaged in mining. His total capital was \$200. He now has 640 acres of land with 75 acres under cultivation, houses, outbuildings and farm machinery. Fifteen horses, 27 head horned cattle, 24 sheep, 20 hogs. Total value \$8,000.

E. Broeseau, of St. Albert, was born in Sparrie, Quebec, was a soldier in the 10th army in the American war; came from the mines of British Columbia by way of Peace river in '75. Commenced farming at St. Albert then and continued until 1883.

Had no capital to start with. When leaving his farm to start store he had 355 acres of land with houses and outbuildings and over 20 acres under cultivation. Stock and implements of a total value with the land of \$3,000. He never had a crop failure.

Wm McKay, of Belmont left Helmsdale in the North of Scotland, in 1873 for Renfrew County, Ontario, and engaged in farming. Came to Edmonton in 1881 with a total capital of \$50. Now has 320 acres of land

within two miles of Edmonton, 45 acres under cultivation, house and outbuildings, 8 horses, 9 milking cows and 14 young cattle, and 20 sheep. Believes the Edmonton district is second to none in Canada for mixed farming, and advises men looking for homes to come to Edmonton before taking land elsewhere.

L. Filson of East Edmonton was born near Shubenacadie, Hants county, Nova Scotia, and farmed there for 23 years. Came to Edmonton in the winter of '83-4. Had no capital. Brought part of family in '84 and the rest in '85, which cost \$300. Self and two sons have 800 acres of land and two younger sons will take land near by as soon as they are of age. Has eight horse thrasher, self-binder, and all other machinery and implements required on a farm. Seventy head of cattle and 15 horses. Comfortable houses and outbuildings. Considers the soil at Edmonton very much more fertile than in Nova Scotia and more fruitful, and the climate more pleasant and healthful as well. There is every opportunity at Edmonton for the industrious man to make a comfortable home for himself; very much better opportunities than exist in Nova Scotia.

W. CURT of St. Albert was born in the north of Ireland, emigrated to the United States when a young man. Went to California in '52 and to British Columbia in '58 where he mined until '62. In that year, in company with E.F. Carey, of Norria & Carey, Edmonton, he discovered the gold diggings on Peace river, and mined for two years. He then commenced for trading and in '77 sold out to the H. B. Co. In the spring of that year he arrived at Edmonton having made the trip from Peace river with a sleigh and one dog. His total capital was \$2,400. He at once went into farming extensively at St. Albert and also on the south side of the Sturgeon river, and continued it ever since, engaging in no other enterprise. He now owns a farm at St. Albert with houses and outbuildings, another at Sturgeon river also with houses and outbuildings and a cattle farm north of St. Albert, 2,000 acres in all, of which 800 are under cultivation. He has a full stock of farm machinery and implements, including thrasher and self-binders, etc., costing \$7,000, over 200 head of cattle and 30 horses. His whole property is valued at \$25,000.

JOHN KENNEDY of Poplar Lake, Edmonton, was raised at Stratford, Ontario. Farmed

at Powassan in northern Ontario from '78 to '89. Left for the Northwest in February '89. Located 28 miles south of Medicine Hat, eleven miles from the timber of the Cypress Hills. Built house and put in 30 acres crop. The land was good and there was plenty of water, but timber was too far away and the drying effect of the chinook wind was too much for the crops. Went to Calgary and examined the country in that vicinity. Found same fault. Came to Edmonton, was suited with the country, went back to Medicine Hat and brought family and effects across country to Edmonton, crossing the railway at Gleichen. Found the land better north than south of the Red Deer. Took up land at Edmonton. Is satisfied that the soil of Edmonton is the richest he has seen in the Dominion. Besides there is plenty of water, and coal and timber for all purposes. The summer growth is good. Although last winter was reckoned severe, he considered it the most pleasant he had spent in the last eleven years. Cattle came through the winter better than they generally do in Ontario, owing to the absence of wet and of storms.

M. MCKINLAY of Sturgeon settlement, Edmonton, was raised at Strathbath, P. E. Island. Came to Edmonton in 1883 and settled on a farm of 320 acres of clear prairie. The quality of the soils unsurpassed and it is close to timber and coal. The climate is favorable for grain and root crops and the yield per acre in wheat, barley, oats and potatoes exceeds that of the most carefully tilled soil on the island. In 1882 Daniel McKinlay, (brother of Malcolm) raised 1,100 bushels of oats from 12 acres. Cattle raising is very profitable on account of the great growth of wild grass for summer pasturage. Has cut a winter supply of hay from the same ground over which the cattle grazed during the summer. Sowing commences generally in the early part of April; the weather is clear and dry until June, which is termed the rainy season, when vegetation makes a rapid growth. Harvesting commences in August and the ground freezes in November. The first sleighing may be looked for about Christmas. The winter season is more pleasant than that of the island on account of its dryness and serenity.

#### DAIRYING.

A. HUTCHINGS of Poplar lake, came from the village of Newborn, County of Leeds, Ontario, to the Edmonton district in the fall

of 1875, and was engaged in trading until the spring of 1880. Then took up his present farm, about six miles north of Edmonton. Now has 420 acres of land with house and outbuildings, 40 acres under cultivation, 40 horned cattle, 6 horses, bell-binder, mow and rake, wagon, plows, harrows and all other necessary farm machinery. Has raised a crop every year since 1880 and never had a failure of oats or barley. Had two partial failures of wheat in ten years. Last season had over 40 bushels of wheat to the acre. His wheat has averaged 30 bushels to the acre eight years out of the ten. Has made butter and raised cattle extensively ever since starting farming. Considers this region far superior for dairying and stock raising to his native place in Ontario. There is a longer milking season, a larger flow of milk and it is richer in butter. There is plenty of green grass as a rule from the 15th of May to the 1st of November. The ground is bare from the 15th of April. Hay is abundant and can be put in the stack by contract at \$2.50 a ton. Cattle raising is doubly as profitable here as in Ontario. Killed 24 year old steers in September of last year, an exceptionally dry season, which dressed 350 pounds.

CHAS. CARSON of Sturgeon settlement was raised in Osgood township, Russell County, Ontario, came to the Northwest in 1873 and took up his present farm of 320 acres of clear prairie in 1882. Gets fuel and fencing timber within three miles and building timber from three to seven miles. Coal within three miles. Starts for load of coal after dinner, digs it and returns in time to feed cattle in evening. Cuts sufficient hay on his own farm or within two miles, and gets water from creek which runs through his farm from a well about ten feet deep. Raised crop every year since 1882. In 1883 had good crop of wheat, barley and oats; in 1884 oats ran 75 bushels to the acre, wheat was damaged by an August frost and ran about 20 bushels, barley was also damaged slightly; in 1885 had a good average crop of all grains; in 1886 had a good crop of oats and barley; his wheat failed on account of being sown too early and getting caught by a spring storm but the neighbors all had excellent wheat; oats ran 60 bushels to the acre and weighed over 34 bushels to the seamless two bushel sack. In 1887, an August frost destroyed both wheat and barley; oats ran 25 bushels to the acre; in 1888 oats averaged 90 bushels

to the acre, barley 35 to 40; sowed no wheat but those who sowed had excellent returns; in 1883 oats yielded 50 bushels to the acre, a small piece of barley yielded 60 bushels to the acre and a sack of white club wheat yielded 20 bushels; red-flie gave an equally good yield but was smutty. Consider the average yield for the seven years fully one third more than the average in eastern Ontario. Horned cattle, hogs and poultry including turkeys do well. No more trouble to raise chickens and turkeys than in Ontario. Hens laid all winter of 1888-9 and generally begin to lay in February. Winters are about the same length as in eastern Ontario, but the frost is not so keen there. There are more storms, however, and these with winter rains make the season more unpleasant there. Spring and fall are dry and pleasant here while they are always wet and unpleasant there.

H. S. Young of the H. B. Co., Edmonton, was in charge of the H. B. Co. post at Lac la Biche from 1883 to 1887. Lac la Biche is nearly 150 miles northeast of Edmonton and empties into the Athabasca. Had a good garden every year, raising all the hardy vegetables in perfection and cucumbers, pumpkins and corn as well the latter for use green. The half breeds of Lac la Biche of whom there are about 100 families, have grown wheat, barley and potatoes ever since the settlement was first established there and have never suffered injury from frost. This is due to the influence of the lake, all cultivation being close to the shore. The surrounding country is timbered and scrubby and consequently frosty. Bishop Farand of the Roman Catholic mission at Lac la Biche raised tobacco every year he resided there and it grew luxuriantly.

Mr. Young was in charge of Lesser Slave lake H. B. post from 1882 to 1888. Slave lake is about 175 miles northwest of Edmonton and is north of Athabasca river. Had a good garden there every year and grew potatoes, turnips, carrots, cabbage, cauliflower and sometimes green corn. The half-breed settlers raised potatoes and barley, but were not as successful with wheat as at Lac la Biche. The surrounding country is timbered, swampy, hilly and frosty. The Hudson's Bay and the settlers have large numbers of horses which winter out and do exceedingly well. Cattle do exceedingly well also but are fed in winter. Mr. Young has read, however, in the journals of the post that many years ago large bands of

cattle were kept there. The animals were never fed after reaching the age of two or three years and ranged the woods as wild as moose. A single winter of excessively deep snow killed off all the cattle and horses, some forty or more years ago, and since then preparations had always been made to feed hay to the cattle, although they did not always require it. In the winter of 1870-80 the Hudson's Bay Company and settlers had over 500 horses at Slave lake. A disease got amongst them which killed more than half while fat. Since that time nothing has occurred to injure the horses.

#### GRAIN.

MALCOLM McLEOD of Edmonton owns a steam thrasher and has threshed during the seasons of '85, '86, '87 and '88 at Edmonton. In '85 and '86 threshed at Wolsley, Assiniboia, and in '85 and '82 at Gladstone, Manitoba. Has threshed heavier yields of wheat, barley and oats at Edmonton than at either Wolsley or Gladstone, and the quality of grain has been equal to the best he has seen anywhere. In '86 and '87 he threshed no frozen wheat at all. In '87 there was a partial failure of wheat from frost, but still he threshed some good wheat. In '88 the yield of all grain was very heavy. A very small proportion of the wheat was injured by frost, but the greater part was untouched, and the yield very heavy. Oats have been a heavy crop of excellent grain every year. Barley was injured by frost in '87, but was untouched in the other three years and yielded well. In 1887 threshed for T. G. Hutchings of Belmont 1,500 bushels of oats from 12 acres of land. In '88 threshed for Geo. Sutherland of the Sturgeon river settlement 55 bushels of white flie wheat to the acre from a field of five acres. In the same year threshed for Geo. Hutton of the Sturgeon 125 bushels of oats to the acre. Took no account of the yield of barley, but some ran over 50 bushels to the acre. In '89 the yield was light but threshed 80 bushels of oats to the acre for T. G. Hutchings and A. McLeod. Wheat yielded over 20 bushels in some cases and the sample was excellent.

JAMES & OTTAWELL of Clover Bar settlement, south side of the Saskatchewan, in the season of 1888 threshed 684 bushels of oats from six acres, a yield of 114 bushels per acre. In 1887 they threshed 2,000 weighed bushels of oats from 26½ cleared acres, a yield of 101½ bushels to the acre. The oats weighed 42½ pounds to the measured bushel.

In 1883 they threshed 3,262 bushels of barley from 55 acres, a yield of 59 bush. 17 lbs to the acre; four acres of wheat yielded 163 bushels, 42 bushels to the acre; and 42 acres of oats yielded 4,123 bushels or 98 bushels to the acre. Of the oats, however one field of 15½ acres yielded 1,753 bushels, or 113½ bushels to the acre. In 1889 they threshed 1,500 bushels of barley from 50 acres of a volunteer crop.

D. R. FRANK, of Fraser & Co., has milled at Edmonton since 1881 and has ground good wheat every year. The proportion of good wheat in the quantity offered at the mill has steadily increased, as methods of farming have improved. Of the crop of 1889 offered at the mill two thirds was No. 1. A great deal of it was equal to the best the world affords. The remainder was good grain but was kept down in grade by smut and some frost. Some farmers have good grain almost every year while others as invariably have poor grain, but on the whole the quality has greatly improved and there is less smut and less frost than in former years.

A. F. DEGAONE, of Edmonton, milled in Manitoba from 1876 to 1884 in the H. B. Co. mills at Winnipeg and West Lynne and in the late Jas. McKay's mill at St. Anne, on the Northwest Angle road. He ran the H. B. Co. mill at Edmonton in 1884 and 1885. No. 1 Edmonton wheat is fully equal to No. 1 Manitoba, but a greater proportion of second class grain was offered at Edmonton owing to poor farming. Since 1885 the average quality of Edmonton wheat has improved. No. 1 Edmonton wheat weighs over 60 pounds to the bushel and he has seen it weigh 64 pounds.

#### VEGETABLES.

D. Ross of the Edmonton Hotel came from Peace river in August of 1873. At that time the H. B. Co. had a large farm in the vicinity of the Fort, but the land had been cropped for many years and was run down. The crop of wheat and barley in 1872, '73 and '74 was good and was not injured by frost. In 1874 a snowfall occurred when the crop was about half cut on September 7th which flattened the standing grain, but it was not otherwise damaged. Leased the H. B. Co. farm for one year in the fall of 1874 and plowed up to October 25th of that year. In 1875 raised 1,400 bushels of barley, 150 bushels of wheat and 1000 bushels of potatoes. The grain was excellent. Never heard of frost damaging grain up to that time. In

1876 opened hotel and began cultivating a large vegetable garden, and has paid considerable attention to gardening ever since. He raised onions 15½ inches in circumference from seed sown in spring. A bunch of 2 onions weighed 18 pounds. Has raised 600 bushels of potatoes from one acre and has raised potatoes weighing 3½ pounds, but this yield and weight has been exceeded by other growers. Has raised cauliflowers fourteen inches in diameter. Considers that potatoes, cabbages, cauliflowers, onions, carrots, parsnips, beets, mangold wurtzels, turnips, peas, lettuce, radishes, celery and all the hardy vegetables, give as good and as certain returns as in any part of the world. Cucumbers, citrons, pumpkins, corn and tomatoes sometimes succeed but are not a sure crop. Was very successful with strawberries last year and the plants have come through the winter well. Has not tried other fruits.

At the exhibition of the Edmonton agricultural society held on October 6th, 1888, there were exhibited cabbages which girthed 4 ft 1 inch, cauliflower 3 ft 1½ inch, turnips 2 ft 4 inches, weighing 23 pounds, beets 1 ft 3 inches, potatoes 1 ft by 1 ft 8 inches, white onions 1 ft 2 inches, red onions 1 ft 1½ inches, pumpkins perfectly ripe 4 ft 1 inch, squash 4 ft 3 inches, vegetable marrow 2 ft 1 inch by 3 ft 7 inches, celery 3 ft 2½ inches in length, parsnips 3 ft 7 inches in length. These articles were all produced without any special effort or skill in the line of fancy gardening.

#### CATTLE.

ROBERT MCKERNAN, of South Side, came from the village Richmond, County of Carlton, Ontario. Farmed near Richmond six years. Came to Hay lakes 36 miles south east of Edmonton in '77 to work on the government telegraph line. Sold out in Ontario for \$1,700. Moved to Edmonton in '81 and started farming. Had then stock, implements and cash amounting to about \$3,000. Let the farm on shares in spring of '80. Had then the deed of a home farm of 320 acres a mile and a half from town with 160 acres fenced and 45 acres undercultivation. Large dwelling house and outbuildings. Also the deed of 160 acres at Sandy lake, twelve miles south of Edmonton, with dwelling, sheds and outbuildings used as a cattle ranch; the 20 years grazing and hay lease of five sections of land adjoining; 125 head of horned cattle, and 13 horses, besides sheep and pigs; with

wagons, plows, harrows, seed drill, self-binder, mower, and rake, and other implements valued at \$1,500 and cash besides. Has had no better luck or chances than other people and as much bad luck as others. Any industrious man who manages properly can do as well, or better.

Mr. McKernan's experience in raising cattle in this district is that with a mixed band from year-olds up 2½ tons of hay per head is ample to winter on. If located near good hay land this can be cut and stacked by contract for from \$2 to \$3 a ton, but a man using his own teams and machinery and his own labor can do it more cheaply. Two men can feed and manage 150 head during the winter. During the summer the cattle are not looked after at all, and cost nothing. During the past winter he has had 150 head on his ranch. From 30 cows he has an increase of 24, the difference representing the total losses during the year.

JOHN NORRIS, SR., of the firm of Norris & Curry, merchants, Edmonton, came from Scotland in 1858 in the service of the Hudson's Bay Company, and has been engaged in cattle raising more or less ever since. From 1876 to 1878 wintered a band of several hundred head of cattle on the range near Ghost river, west of Calgary, one of the best ranges in Southern Alberta. His experience led him to believe that cattle raising was more profitable in the Edmonton district than at Bow river. He now has 200 head on a stock farm near Edmonton. What is gained by not putting up hay in the south is lost by the almost certain loss of all calves which come before spring is well advanced in every season, with the certainty of heavy losses of full grown cattle in severe seasons. What is spent in Edmonton on hay is made on the more rapid increase, consequent on there being no losses. Three tons of hay per head is sufficient and this can be put up by contract for \$2 to \$2.50 a ton, but a man employing his own labor and teams need not be at a cost of more than \$1 a ton. Men whose capital will only start them with a herd of from 100 to 500 head can do much better at Edmonton than in the south.

THOMAS HENDERSON of Edmonton, was raised in County of Oxford, Ontario, near town of Ingersoll. Went to British Columbia in '72 and settled at Maple Ridge on the Fraser river, New Westminster district. Bought 150 acres of land of which 100 was timbered and 50 overflowing meadow. Farmed for

seven years. Then had house and barn, and 30 acres chopped and partly cleared, a small orchard and a little land under cultivation. Came to Edmonton by way of Jasper Pass in 1880. Farmed for three years and then removed to town in order to be near a school, and engaged in gardening and dairying and latterly beekeeping. Left British Columbia on account of the wetness of the climate in that part and the difficulty of making a farm. For fruit raising the coast is good but for farming a man can be further ahead in six years at Edmonton than in 50 years there, and not work as hard. For stock raising and dairying there is no comparison. Considers Edmonton a better dairying district than Oxford, Ontario, or any part of British Columbia.

#### BEES.

Regarding beekeeping Mr. Henderson and J. Knowles imported a swarm each of Italian bees from Niagara, Ontario, in June of 1883. These swarms gave two swarms each and yielded 40 pounds of surplus honey. The summer was very wet and honey abundant. Mr. Henderson wintered his three swarms in shelter above ground and lost one; Mr. Knowles wintered his in a cellar and lost none. The bees began to gather honey on March 31st of 1889, but the winter had been mild and the spring was wonderfully early. They imported two more swarms each in 1889 and these with the increase during the season gave 20 strong swarms to go into the winter of 1889-90. The summer of 1889 was very dry and there was a poor crop of honey, but the bees gathered enough for themselves and gave a surplus of 100 pounds. They were wintered in a cellar and have come through strong and with no loss. No dark colored honey is gathered here and there is abundance to be had. The bees begin to gather from the poplar and willow buds which come out from the 1st to the 25th of April, and continue gathering until about September 15th as there is such an abundance and variety of honey bearing plants. There is a longer honey season here than in Ontario and a more abundant supply.

#### HEALTH.

The following statement regarding the health of this district has been furnished jointly by Drs. Wilson and McInnis who have practiced here for eight and four years respectively:

Regarding Consumption, we have never seen a case in which the disease had been



contracted in this district. We have seen several cases which, in the very early stages, were sent here by their medical advisers in the east who are now enjoying the heat of health, and every sign of the disease has vanished.

**Concerning Bronchitis and Asthma:** We are not subject to bronchitis to the same extent as in the eastern provinces. Naturally we have it following a severe cold, but it never lasts long and is never as severe as in the east. Even severe cases sent here from the east become entirely well after a few months.

Many cases of persons affected with Asthma could be cited, every one of whom has either been cured or greatly benefited by residence here.

Pneumonia or inflammation of the lungs, which in the east is very prevalent, is here almost unknown. In 8 years we have had only one case.

Although this district was last winter afflicted with a severe epidemic of La Grippe there was not a single case of lung complications resulting, nor was there a death among the white population. This is noteworthy considering the number of deaths following La Grippe in Eastern Canada.

Compare these facts with the mortuary statistics of Eastern Canada, of which Toronto is perhaps the healthiest city, the death rate there per thousand of population being lower than in Montreal, Quebec, Hamilton or London. In 1893 578 deaths occurred in Toronto from diseases of the lungs, which is over 20 per cent of the total deaths for that year.

Rheumatic fever is almost unknown in this climate. It is seven years since we have recorded a case of this disease.

Dysentery, dysentery and other affections of the bowels are of very rare occurrence. Not a single death has ever occurred from these diseases during our sojourn here, and we have never heard of a death from these causes before that time. These remarks apply to infants and children as well as to adults. In Toronto eight per cent of all deaths are due to these affections, and in Winnipeg 16 per cent; in Winnipeg and Ottawa the deaths from these diseases stand first in number in the returns, in Montreal second and in London, Quebec and Toronto third. No better climate for children than that of Northern Alberta is to be found in America.

Typhoid and similar fevers are not prevalent.

In Winnipeg five per cent of all deaths result from typhoid fever. We have had some few cases of low fever, but none since 1886, and but one death from this cause.

Malarial fever or fever and ague is unknown, and owing to the climatic conditions the miasm or poison cannot be developed.

The atmosphere is clear, pure and aseptic. In summer warm pleasant days and cool refreshing nights give the tired farmer or man of business an opportunity to recuperate, and gain fresh energy and strength for the morrow's work. The fact of the days being so warm and nights so cool during summer is one of the causes producing our wonderful and prolific crops, but does not come within the scope of the present article. The winters are somewhat colder than in Eastern Canada but are not so severe or trying to the system, especially to those with what is commonly called weak lungs. We have no blizzards as in the northern States; in short our winters are very pleasant and likewise conduce to health and longevity.

Under an ordinance of the Northwest assembly a registry of vital statistics was opened at Edmonton last year with C. F. Strang as registrar. The registrations for the term from July 1st, 1890 to December 31st, 1890 were 14 births, 2 marriages and one death. The death recorded was of a resident of the district but occurred at Calgary. Since January 1st, 1890 no deaths have been recorded. The registration district includes the whole of the Edmonton electoral district with a population of several thousands, but although the terms of the ordinance are compulsory it is not enforced in the outlying settlements. It does apply, however, to the district within a considerable distance around Edmonton containing a population of at least 1,500.

#### WEATHER.

ALEX. TAYLOR, government telegraph operator and meteorological observer furnishes the following information compiled from the records of the observatory:

The subject of irrigation which is of great and growing importance in the Western States and has been discussed to some extent in the southern part of our own Northwest, is one which will never become a live topic in Northern Alberta. Until last season we have always had an abundance of moisture. This is amply borne out by the old diaries of the Hudson Bay Company and the records at the Edmonton observatory of the present

ment signal service, which latter covers a period of ten years. The average rainfall from the 1st of April until the 1st of October during the past ten years has been 10.25 inches divided as follows: 1880, 11.72, 1881, 16.12, 1882, 8.85, 1883, 32.12, 1884, 14.19, 1885, 10.30, 1886, 8.53, 1887, 10.68, 1888, 14.61, 1889, 6.46. The rainfall of 1889 came after the harvest. The annual averages over 18 inches every winter. The average temperature in quarters is spring 52.30, summer 57.10, autumn 50.2, winter 17.90 or the year 37.83 which is nearly the same as Ottawa but there are two or three more hours of sunshine than that place enjoys. The lowest recorded temperature was 60° below on 7th January, 1880 and the highest 81° above on July 15th, 1889. These were the only dates however on which such extremes were experienced. The summer temperature seldom goes over 85° while in winter 40° below is uncommon, last winter the lowest being 38° and the winter before 28°. -Calm weather without a suspicion of wind always accompanies low temperature while in summer the hottest day is followed by a cool night. The highest wind recorded at the observatory was 52 miles an hour in December 1879, over ten years ago. A twenty five mile breeze is experienced so seldom that it is remarked upon by the public. Wild ducks, geese and swans appear about the end of March and beginning of April and leave in October. The first frost usually comes about September 7th after which none is to be expected until after the 32nd. After May 1st a frost rarely visits the district unless the situation is low and moist. Snow leaves about the end of March and its evaporation is very rapid. Farming operations are not delayed waiting for the ground to dry. The altitude of Edmonton is about 2,250 feet above sea level.

#### FOREST VALUE.

The following which appears in the blue book of the department of interior for 1889, and is the concluding part of the report of the Dominion Lands Commissioner, H. H. Smith, sets forth, although indirectly still very clearly, the great advantage to the settler of a location in a partly wooded region as compared with a location on the bare prairie:

In a country of such long and severe winters as this an adequate supply of fuel, obtainable without excessive cost, is absolutely indispensable. Unless this can be assured the value of the Northwest

as a field for settlement, however fertile may be its prairies and however exuberant its crops, will be seriously affected. Fortunately, there appear to be coal deposits of considerable extent in various parts of it, and this in some degree compensates for its lack of timber, but coal can never altogether take the place of wood with the agricultural population, for, besides being their main article of fuel, wood is depended upon almost entirely by the settlers as a building material, and is largely used for fencing purposes. Its value in these respects alone is therefore sufficient to justify strenuous efforts to preserve and increase the quantity now in the country. But besides these very practical and patent considerations, other reasons for the preservation and multiplication of forests—more theoretical but of scarcely less importance, if valid—are advanced by many competent authorities on forestry. It is claimed that deforestation produces important climatic changes. In the deforested area, it is said, extremes of temperature are aggravated; and the average moisture of the air is lowered; the neighboring country loses the protection from cold and drying winds which the mechanical action of the forests as a wind-break affords; evaporation from the soil is augmented and accelerated and the volume of streams, rivers and lakes is diminished. These unfavorable results are stated to be most marked and serious in countries at a considerable distance from the sea or other large bodies of water, and especially where they are separated from stretches of water by high mountain ranges, which interfere to prevent the passage of moisture laden winds. An increase in a country's forest area is, contrariwise, claimed to exert an opposite influence—to modify temperature, to decrease cold winds in winter and scorching blasts in summer, and to increase the rainfall.

A. M. Bessing, deputy minister of interior, who visited Edmonton last summer, says in the report of the department of interior: During my visit to Edmonton last season, what I had already heard as to the rapid reproduction of trees by natural processes on land on which the timber had been burned, was confirmed by personal observation. Trees which are now growing up will in a few years be at least fit for fuel, so that there need not be the slightest alarm that there will not always be a plentiful supply of wood for settlers.

#### PROSODY.

The report of the department of interior

contains a voluminous report of W. Ogilvie's explorations in 1887 and 1888 of the Yukon and Mackenzie rivers. It is most interesting and no doubt as accurate and valuable as interesting. Mr. Ogilvie estimates the known petroleum bearing area of the Athabasca river region at 150,000 square miles and believes that still this is only a small part of the total area. He says: "It is possible that a well bored at Edmonton would, at a reasonable depth, tap the formation containing this tar, and it is almost certain that one bored at Athabasca Landing would." He mentions that with the use of Fraser & Co.'s portable saw mill now at the Athabasca Landing, a test well could be sunk there at very slight cost.

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